

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 OMB-01 SAA-01 HA-05
/106 W

-----071344 101048Z /20

P R 100939Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY DACCA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0024
INFO AMEMBASSY RANGOON
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
USMISSION GENEVA
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 4290

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR BG BM
SUBJECT: BANGLADESH-BURMA SIGN AGREEMENT ON REFUGEE
REPATRIATION

REF: DACCA 4191

1. BANGLADESH AND BURMA SIGNED AN AGREEMENT IN DACCA, JULY 9, WHICH APPEARS TO HAVE CLEARED THE WAY FOR SOME OR ALL, PROBABLY THE FORMER, OF THE REFUGEES FROM THE ARAKAN TO RETURN TO BURMA. DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER U TIN OHN SIGNED FOR BURMA; TABARAK HUSAIN FOR BANGLADESH. OHN LATER CALLED ON PRESIDENT ZIA AND AFTERWARD TOLD THE PRESS HE WAS PLEASED TO HAVE ACCOMPLISHED THE MISSION ON WHICH HE WAS SENT BY PRESIDENT NE WIN.

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2. WE HAVE NOT YET SEEN A COPY OF THE AGREEMENT BUT THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME QUESTION AS TO THE COVERAGE OF THE DOCUMENT. PRESS ACCOUNTS REFER BOTH TO "ALL THE REFUGEES" AND ALSO TO "RESIDENT BURMESE PEOPLE NOW SHELTERED IN CAMPS IN ANLGADESH." ONE MFA SOURCE MAINTAINS THAT THE INTENTION IS FOR BURMA TO ACCEPT THE RETURN OF ALL WHO HAVE FLED, BUT WE HAVE ALSO HEARD THAT THOSE WHO WILL

BE PERMITTED TO RETURN ARE ONLY THOSE WHO WERE ON THE LIST MENTIONED IN REFTEL AND THEIR IMMEDIATE RELATIVES, I.E. THOSE WHO HAVE VALID RESIDENCE IN BURMA. WE HOPE TO BE ABLE TO CLEAR THIS UP SHORTLY.

3. THE MECHANICS OF THE RETURN ARE ALSO UNCLEAR AT THE MOMENT, BUT WORK IS TO BEGIN BEFORE THE END OF AUGUST ON THE PROCESSING AND REPATRIATION.

4. THE TWO COUNTRIES ALSO SIGNED AGREEMENTS TO DEMARCAT JOINTLY THE LAND BORDER, TO RESTORE THE CHANNEL MARKINGS IN THE NAAF RIVER AND TO ESTABLISH A BOUNDARY GROUP WHICH WILL ATTEMPT TO PREVENT ILLEGAL CROSSINGS IN EITHER DIRECTION.

5. THERE HAS CLEARLY BEEN AN IMPORTANT BREAKTHROUGH IN THE REFUGEE PROBLEM ALTHOUGH WE ARE NOT YET CERTAIN ABOUT THE EXTENT AND ARE NOT CERTAIN HOW WELL AND AMICABLE IT WILL BE IMPLEMENTED.

SCHNEIDER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, REFUGEES, REPATRIATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978DACCA04290
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780281-1145
Format: TEL
From: DACCA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780781/aaaacpss.tel
Line Count: 82
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e08be378-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 DACCA 4191
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2073317
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BANGLADESH-BURMA SIGN AGREEMENT ON REFUGEE REPATRIATION
TAGS: PBOR, SREF, BG, BM
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e08be378-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014